

University at Albany – State University of New York
2006-07 University Senate
Minutes of November 27, 2006
Diane M. Dewar, Chair

Present: J. Philippe Abraham, Bradley Armour-Garb, Tom Bessette, Scott Birge, Roger Bisbing, Gerald Burke, Ana Cervantes, Rodriguez, Maria Chau (President GSO), Fan Pen Chen, Richard Collier, Edward Cupoli, Diane M. Dewar, Peter Duchessi, Sue Faerman, Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Robert Gibson, Jil Hanifan, Frank Hauser, Susan Herbst, Timothy Hoff, Heather Horton, Reed Hoyt, Allen Israel, Jon Jacklet, Laurence Kranich, William Lanford, Carolyn MacDonald, Matthew Martens, Steven Messner, Robert Miller, John Monfasani, Gwendolyn Moore, John Murphy, Olimpia Pelosi, Marjorie Pryse, Sanjay Putrevu, R. Michael Range, Joan Savitt, John Schmidt, David Shub, Brian Tregerman, Daniel Truchan, Lynn Videka, Rose-Marie Weber, Wendy West, Daniel White, Edelgard Wulfert, Adam Zonder

Guests: Jon Bartow, Paul Leonard, Wayne Locust, Sheila Mahan, George M. Philip, Esq., University Council Chairperson

Minutes: The minutes of October 23, 2006 were approved.

Provost's Report, by Susan V. Herbst, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Officer in Charge:

Provost Herbst reported on the following areas of faculty/student successes:

Finance: Regarding the East Campus: A new corporation will be formed between the SUNY Research Foundation and the University at Albany Foundation. The goal is to work down the debt, and to turn the East Campus into a bio-tech research park, no name has been chosen yet. It is very good news for UAlbany.

Tuition: SUNY will advance a rational tuition program increase proposal.

Research: Provost Herbst referred to several grants recently received by the University.

Committees at Work: Provost Herbst commended people for their work on several different committees at the University. Namely people involved in the Sexual Assault Task Force, the Diversity Task Force, the SPH Dean Search Committee, the Retention Committee, the Center for Jewish Studies Search Committee, the Course Availability Committee and the newly formed Classroom Committee, with its goal to enhance all classrooms with regards to basic comfort/desks/blackboards/ technology.

Student Success and Recruitment: UAlbany is seeing very positive signs in enrollment, there is great interest for parents and prospective students. Freshman applications are 38% ahead of last year at this time.

Athletics: UAlbany women athletes are doing incredibly well this year, they should be commended.

SUNY-wide Student Survey: An initial report shows there has been substantial improvement of global measures since 2003. A detailed report will be available soon. The top five areas showing improvement are recreation and intramural programs, parking facilities, classroom facilities, residence hall services and programs, and the college bookstore. Student opinion concerning the quality of instruction was down a little. Provost Herbst commended Joel Bloom of the Institutional Research Team for his work on this project.

Appointment: Provost Herbst announced William Roberson is the new Director of CETL and is on board.

SUNY-wide Faculty Senate Report by William Lanford: see attached.

Senate Chair's Report:

Academic Integrity and Honor Code: Chair Dewar reported that the Senate Executive Committee met with Dean Marjorie Pryse, Vice Provost Sue Faerman and students, including Maria Chau, Nick Chiuchiolo, Casey Crandall who are involved in the Academic Integrity and Honor Code Committee. Several Senate Councils will be involved and Chair Dewar asked that more faculty/staff and students volunteer to be involved.

Presidential Search Committee: A call for nominations to the Search Committee has been issued, and Chair Dewar urged people to nominate themselves or others. There will be a special meeting of the Senate on December 11th for Senators who are counted as members of the Teaching Faculty to vote on the Committee slate.

Guest Speaker George M. Philip, Esq., Chairperson of the University Council:

Chair Philip spoke about the last Presidential search, and explained it was a long and tedious task. He discussed the nomination of faculty representative process and noted that he would like to see six faculty that do represent the University community at large. The search process again, will be a closed/confidential process. There will be 16-17 members on the Committee; including six faculty members, four University Council members, two students, at least one dean, a representative of the alumni, a representative of the community at large, and one non-faculty person from the University. He noted that he does have the authority to add another person to the Committee. He hopes that the committee will be in place by the end of the calendar year. Currently there is a RFP being processed by SUNY for search firms. The council will interview the "headhunter" firm representatives. One of the first Committee tasks will be to develop a position description; the Committee will then advertise in all academic publications with a widespread distribution of advertisements. He noted that, hopefully, the search firm representative will be able to make some direct recruitment. He noted that, once developed, the list of final candidates will be forwarded to the University Council, then, the top three names will go to the Chancellor. He noted that he would like to see a diverse pool of candidates and that he wants to see the position filled by September, to start the Fall Semester. There was a question and some discussion about part time representation on the Committee.

Council and Committee Reports:

CAA (Council on Academic Assessment) -- William Lanford, Chair. Two subcommittees chaired by Rose-Marie Weber and Seth Chaiken are preparing reports on the assessments of Spanish and Biology, respectively. A schedule for assessment of Project Renaissance has been developed. With the much appreciated help of Provost Herbst, the assessment now has site visits scheduled for March/April 2007. This should allow CAA to receive a full assessment report during the present academic year. The Council has begun discussion of providing comparative data that would allow individual course instructors to better understand their own student course evaluations. UPC has also raised this topic. Bruce Szelest is planning to form a committee involving CAA and UPC to discuss what can be efficiently done.

COR (Council on Research) -- Andrew Haas, Chair. No report.

CPCA (Council on Promotions and Continuing Appointments) -- David Shub, Chair.

Nothing to report.

GAC (Graduate Academic Council) -- Sally Friedman, Chair. Nothing to report. The Council meets again on November 30th.

GOV (Governance Council) -- Reed Hoyt, Chair

The Governance Council met on Monday, 6 November and Monday 20 November. The Council approved a series of updates, corrections, and amendments to the Senate Charter. For the sake of clarity, these will be presented to the Senate in two stages: first, the updates and corrections for the 27 November meeting and the proposed amendments for the 18 December meeting. The Executive Committee will circulate them to the full senate. The Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation also met on Monday, 13 November and will shortly propose either legislation or a resolution to the Council. The Council has approved a letter soliciting nominations for members of the Presidential Search Committee and has directed an inquiry to the UAC. The Council will examine the role of professional staff in the governance process.

LISC (Council on Libraries, Information Systems, and Computing) – Daniel White, Chair.

The Council will continue to discuss the email resolution and will be voting on it presently.

UAC (Undergraduate Academic Council) – John Monfasani, Chair. The UAC has discussed several items but not taken any action on a proposal since the last summary. It is hoped to have the Honors College recommendation at the next Senate meeting.

ULC (University Life Council) – Joan Savitt, Chair. The Council met on November 6 and discussed book availability and book prices and ways to reduce those prices for students. Faculty are encouraged to submit their orders for coming semesters as early as possible since this facilitates the repurchase of students' books at a price most advantageous to them. Books which are not known to have been reordered are repurchased at a lower price. Because the chair of ULC is serving on the Task Force on Acquaintance Rape, ULC determined that it would review the report of the Task Force when it is issued in December in order to determine what recommendations it would bring to the Senate.

ULC also discussed the continuing need for a professional staff member to support intramurals and student activities. ULC has learned that hundreds of students who wished to participate in such activities were unable to do so because of space limitations.

ULC met on November 20 with guest Dr. Peter Vellis to discuss health insurance needs of Albany students and possible ways to resolve the issue for an estimated 3,000 Albany students who may not have any health coverage at this time. That number is an estimate since students are not obligated to prove that they have coverage when they decline to purchase the optional plan that Albany makes available to them. Dr. Vellis reported that only about 300 students purchase that plan, and that many students who visit our on-campus medical facility decline to pursue the treatments that are recommended to them because of their cost.

UPC (University Planning and Policy Council) – Steven Messner, Chair. UPC met on October 24. The Council discussed responses from UAC to the draft proposal to create an Undergraduate Ombudsperson Office. The council decided to ask UAC to invite representatives from UPC to attend a UAC meeting to address concerns about the proposal. The Chair of UPC has also solicited comments on the proposal from members of ULC and from the Vice President for Student Success. The Council discussed a recommendation from the *ad hoc* Committee on Student Satisfaction concerning new procedures for peer evaluation of teaching. The Chair of the Council is seeking input from CPCA and from a campus UUP representative to assist in the formulation of a specific proposal. In addition to these matters, UPC will consider a request to suspend the Organizational Studies Doctoral Program at its next meeting, which is scheduled for November 30.

CAFFeCoR (Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, and Community Responsibility) -- Lawrence Snyder, Chair. Nothing to report.

CERS (Committee on Ethics in Research and Scholarship) -- Elga Wulfert, Chair. Nothing to report.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne VanDenburgh, Recorder

ATTACHMENT: SUNY-WIDE Senate Report dated 10/26/06

CHANCELLOR JOHN RYAN RECEPTION: This meeting started Thursday night with a reception and talk by Chancellor John Ryan. The Chancellor reviewed some of the successes of last year's budget and the challenges expected in the coming year, with a new governor. He discussed the needs for more international programs in SUNY. Citing some of his own experiences as a naval pilot, Chancellor Ryan indicated he would like more programs to enhance leadership qualities among the faculty, leading to persons willing to take a "stretch appointment".

SENATE PRESIDENT: The President of the University Faculty Senate is **Carl Wiezalis** (Professor of Respiratory Therapy Education, Upstate Medical, Syracuse). President Wiezalis reported an extensive list of activities since our last meeting. These include regular and constructive meetings with Chancellor Ryan. He relayed the importance of SUNY to the economic development of New York State. He reported that the bill placing the Senate President on the SUNY Board of Trustees was signed by Governor Pataki, taking effect on July 1, 2007. Chancellor Ryan (and Wiezalis) support extending the current smoke free dorms to smoke free campuses. Students are raising concerns about mandating such a change, and, at this time making campuses smoke free is not likely to be mandated, but will remain a goal.

REVISION OF BYLAWS: Edward Alfonsin introduced proposed revision of Bylaws, essentially all intended only to improve language not substance. For example, they are changing "ex officio" to "by means of office" because Roberts Rules says ex officio members vote. Reports will "received" not "accepted". Electronic meetings need authorization in Bylaws. Bylaw changes require approval by two Senates to become effective and we will vote again at next meeting.

BUDGET REPORT BY KIM CLINE, SUNY CFO: Last years budget was best in many years, 12.6% increase (380 new faculty lines). She expects this year to be tough, new Governors typically cut early and put back later (before election). State anticipates a \$3.2 billion deficit and SUNY is a large part of the "cutable" budget. Cornell and Ceramics moving outside BAP. Spitzer "SUNY and CUNY need to have a rational tuition policy that avoids spikes in tuition. Any tuition increases should be used to fund an improvement in education quality, not offset reductions in state aid."

PRESIDENT OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES, KIMBERLEY REISER : Working, with support from Senate, to get President from Community Colleges also a member of SUNY Board of Trustees.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AND THE STATE OF STATE OF NEW YORK'S SCHOOLS. D. BRUCE JOHNSTONE, PAST CHANCELLOR : Bruce Johnstone was Chancellor in early 1990's discussed the successes and failures of *SUNY 2000* developed under his administration. While there were successes, he is somewhat disappointed that so much of the plan was so quickly abandoned.

K-12 AND COLLEGE READINESS TO TEACHER EDUCATION, PAMELA SANDOVAL, SUNY ASSISTANT PROVOST FOR P-16.: We have lots of problems, politics is difficult, there are no consensus solutions, but we must continue to work to improve our basis education, especially in reading, math, and science. Johnstone commented that much of the world finds in hard to believe we fund education with local taxes. He also is proud of the U.S. ability to give students 2nd and 3rd chances, i.e. everything is not bad.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE, FRED HILDEBRAND, ASSISTANT PROVOST.

Hildebrand reviewed efforts to record and propose efforts to ways to improve development of our faculty. There is a Faculty Development Council (with Bill Hedberg) working on this. Mentoring new faculty was discussed as was the concept of encouraging new faculty to take formal training in pedagogy.

SECTOR CONCERNS: President Wiezalis will raise these concerns with Chancellor Ryan.

Colleges

- *Emeritus Faculty policies vary across SUNY, not always consistent with BOT Policy.*
- *What is status of "360 degree Assessment" of administrators?*
- *Administrators are making changes without input from governance.*
- *The 380 new faculty lines may not be used to correct balance between adjunct and regular faculty.*

Health Sciences

- *Central Administration needs coordinator expert in health sciences.*

Colleges of Technology

- *Big planned enrollment increases (10,000 at Buffalo) may impact technology colleges.*

Specialized Colleges

- *Too many decisions made and then reported to faculty.*
- *Concern about administrative consistency.*
- *Cornell's 4 colleges will be sending Senators.*
- *Ceramics administration still not clear.*

University Centers

- *P.I. incorporation leading to lower "credit" for campus research in NRC ranking.*
- *Procedure used to appoint Albany's Officer-in-Charge of concern.*
- *New faculty have too heavy a work load.*
- *Slow getting Gen Ed approved at SUNY.*

LEGISLATION

- *Resolution in support of making President of FCCC a member of BOT - passed*
- *Resolution creating "Senator Emeritus Award"- passed*
- *Resolution creating "Senate Fellow Award" passed.*
- *Resolution on Enhancing SUNY Access to Electronic Databases - passed*
- *Resolution on Orienting and Mentoring New Campus Presidents - passed*
- *Resolution on modification of Bylaws - passed*

REMINDER OF THE FACULTY SENATE PAGE:

Although material is slow to appear on the site, eventually the full text of motions passed should appear:

<http://www.suny.edu/facultySenate/>.

Note: Albany should consider naming an alternate Senator.

Respectfully submitted, William Lanford, SUNY Senator lanford@albany.edu